



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

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TO: SACHI A. HAMAI
Executive Officer
Board of Supervisors

Attention: Agenda Preparation

FROM: JOHN F. KRATTLI 
Senior Assistant County Counsel

RE: **Jasmine L., et al. v. County of Los Angeles**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 303 732

Attached is the Agenda entry for the Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation regarding the above-referenced matter. Also attached are the Case Summary and the Summary Corrective Action Plan to be made available to the public.

It is requested that this recommendation, the Case Summary and the Summary Corrective Action Plan be placed on the Board of Supervisor's agenda.

JFK:rfm

Attachments

Board Agenda

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation: Authorize settlement of the matter entitled Jasmine L., et al. v. County of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 303 732, in the amount of \$150,000, and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Department of Children and Family Services' budget.

This lawsuit concerns allegations of deprivation of educational and mental health services and use of inappropriate physical restraint by the Department of Children and Family Services.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Jasmine L., et al. v. COLA
CASE NUMBER	BC303732
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	October 7, 2003
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Children and Family Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 150,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Girardi & Keese (310) 203-2210 Law Offices of Sanford Jossen (310) 546-9118
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Lauren M. Black Principal Deputy County Counsel (213) 974-0695
NATURE OF CASE	Seventeen dependent minors who resided at MacLaren Children's Center ("MCC") between September 2000 and February 2002 filed this lawsuit alleging they did not receive appropriate mental health and educational services. Plaintiffs further allege they were assaulted by MCC staff through the inappropriate use of physical restraint.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 307,590
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 34,414



Summary Corrective Action Plan Department of Children and Family Services



The intent of this form is to assist departments in writing a corrective action plan summary for attachment to the settlement documents developed for the Board of Supervisors and/or the County of Los Angeles Claims Board. The summary should be a specific overview of the claims/lawsuits' identified root causes and corrective actions (status, time frame, and responsible party). This summary does not replace the Corrective Action Plan form. If there is a question related to confidentiality, please consult County Counsel.

Date of incident/event:	2000-2002
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	17 children who allege that they were physically abused while placed at MacLaren Children's Center (MCC.)

1. Briefly describe the root cause of the claim/lawsuit:

The root cause(s) of this claim/lawsuit is (are):

Inadequate health and mental health services for special needs children resulting in placement in congregate care.

2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:
(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

Corrective actions to address root cause

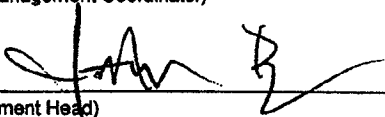
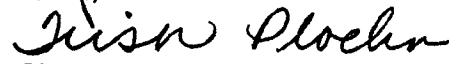
Closure of MCC in 2003

Systemic improvements have been made and specialized services are being provided to children who would previously have resided at MCC. Some of the systemic improvements include the expansion of medical hubs, standardized mental health screenings for children entering foster care, collaboration with the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the creation of a Child Welfare Division within DMH, and increases in the County's capacity to provide in-home mental health services. Wraparound services have been increased so that these children can grow in less restrictive environments. We are utilizing Structured Decision-Making (SDM) to increase consistency in decision-making. Additionally, we have implemented Team Decision Making (TDM) at significant decision points for a child and his/her family.

County of Los Angeles
Summary Corrective Action Plan

3. State if the corrective actions are applicable to only your department or other County departments:
(If unsure, please contact the Chief Executive Office Risk Management Branch for assistance)

- ☐ Potentially has County-wide implications.
- ☐ Potentially has implications to other departments (i.e., all human services, all safety departments, or one or more other departments).
- ☒ Does not appear to have County-wide or other department implications.

Signature: (Risk Management Coordinator)  Jonathan Byers	Date: 6/29/09
Signature: (Department Head)  Patricia S. Ploehn, Director	Date: 7-6-09